

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
HIGHLAND VILLAGE**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Highland Village as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary as an incorporated city.

Highland Village was voted into existence by approximately 100 residents on February 14, 1963, with 53 supporting votes and seven opposed. Over the subsequent 50 years the 5.5 square-mile city has transitioned from a small population and weekenders from Dallas to the lakeside community that is now home for almost 16,000 permanent residents.

Highland Village has a long history that includes its role as a hideout in the 1870s for the notorious highwayman, Sam Bass, who was drawn to the privacy of the trees and hills that are unique to much of north Texas. The same natural beauty that attracted the infamous also beckoned wealthy Dallasites seeking respite from the city. The growth continued and development by groups such as Mobil Land Development Corporation transformed the small, rural town into a suburban city in the 1970s. It eventually became a Home Rule City in 1986 as its population surpassed 5,000.

Residential expansion led to improvements in infrastructure and economic growth. Diversification of the community's revenue base through commercial development led to the city's current vibrant retail market. Roadway improvements to FM 407 and the extension of FM 2499 as a major north south route which will eventually connect DFW Airport with Denton residents has also fostered the community's prosperity. Managing its growth in a conservatively fiscal manner, Highland Village prioritized services that would enhance and preserve the quality of life for residents. As a result, current residents enjoy living in a municipality identified as the "Safest City in Texas", with full-time fire and emergency services, an extensive system of community trails and membership in the Denton County Transportation Authority with nearby rail connectivity to the international commerce hub of Dallas.

As Highland Village celebrates their 50th anniversary, I salute the unique community that I and my family have also known as home. It is my privilege today to represent the City of Highland Village and its residents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE MCCOLLUM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Suzanne C. McCollum for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. McCollum will retire after 28 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Army Civilian.

Ms. McCollum began her service as a Clerk Typist, GS-1, at the Soldier Support Center-

National Capital Region. In 1989, she went on to serve as a secretary and Congressional Liaison Clerk for the 6th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Wainwright, Alaska. When she returned to Washington, DC in 1992, she briefly worked for the Acquisition Management Branch, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, before accepting a position in the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison (OCLL), Congressional Inquiry Division. During this time, Ms. McCollum was assigned to ever higher levels of responsibility as her experience and reputation as a skilled action officer grew.

Ms. McCollum received a promotion in the Congressional Activities Division, where she was responsible for ensuring that Army Senior Leader written testimony was provided to the Defense Oversight committees in a timely manner. She published a key tool for the Army in responding to Congress: the Congressional Actions Responsibilities Standard Operating Procedures. Within a year, she was promoted again and asked to become the Legislative Assistant to Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston, becoming his sole advisor for all congressional affairs matters. In that role, Ms. McCollum was responsible for preparing the SMA for congressional testimony, providing analysis on Congressional interest items and legislation related to Soldier and Family issues, and keeping him informed on Members and Staff in preparation for numerous Congressional office calls, events, and trips. This was critical to ensure he was able to provide Members of Congress and their Staff with the most current information on Army Programs. Ms. McCollum most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Support Operations Division, Army Legislative Liaison.

Ms. McCollum has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring the quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. Through her numerous contributions, she has made a real and lasting impact towards gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying thank you to Ms. Suzanne C. McCollum for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country throughout her distinguished career as an Army Civilian and we wish her, her husband, Army-Retired Colonel Douglas McCollum and her daughter, Brennan Noelle Rozmeski; stepdaughters Brooke Ashley and Brittany Kay McCollum, all the best in her well deserved retirement.

OPPOSING THE AMERICAN
TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment and frustration with the agreement Congress reached to prevent automatic tax hikes and the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration. After tenuous negotiations which skirted the entire legislative process, the agreement, officially known as H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act, is neither balanced, nor comprehensive. Instead, it adds

nearly \$3.97 trillion to the national debt while leaving some of the most pressing tax and spending issues facing our country unresolved. For these reasons, I opposed H.R. 8. I will continue to work hard in the hopes that my colleagues can be persuaded to avoid a repeat performance less than two months from now.

H.R. 8 fails to address our unfavorable fiscal situation, and merely delays important decisions that should have already been made. Thus, I have grave concerns that its enactment will result in other fevered negotiations by the few that will produce new "compromises" that are harmful to middle class families. With both the debt ceiling and sequestration still looming, I share Sen. HARKIN's concern that the passage of H.R. 8 may put pressure on achieving deficit reductions through spending programs that Americans have earned. As Sen. HARKIN stated, "Every dollar that wealthy taxpayers do not pay under this deal, we will eventually ask Americans of modest means to forgo in Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits."

I am also absolutely appalled that the legislative process has been completely ignored throughout this process. We have known for 24 months that Bush-era tax cuts would expire at the end of 2012. We have known for 17 months that the indiscriminate, across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration would take effect at the beginning of this year. Yet for all intents and purposes, serious negotiations did not start until after the 2012 election, leaving just under two months to craft a solution to a massive and complex set of problems. To make matters worse, essentially five elected officials—first President Obama and House Speaker BOEHNER, and later Vice President BIDEN, Senate Majority Leader REID, and Senate Minority Leader MCCONNELL—negotiated the so-called compromise, even though it affects every American across this nation. Our constituents deserve to have their interests represented by their Congressional Representatives and Senators—the officials who they have specifically chosen to represent their individual interests. This is a dreadful way to legislate, and I sincerely hope that the process is not repeated.

I am extremely frustrated that H.R. 8 is yet another unbalanced and ineffective attempt to bring our fiscal house in order. I have long maintained that the solutions to our nation's fiscal problems must be comprehensive and fair. It is the only way we can truly provide a sound economy and future for the next generation. H.R. 8 accomplishes neither of these goals. While the law will raise an estimated \$620 billion over ten years compared to what the tax code would have generated if we had simply extended all of the Bush-era tax cuts, it will ultimately add \$3.97 trillion to our debt over the next ten years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Achieving \$620 billion in new revenue while adding nearly \$4 trillion to our debt is not effective or proportional.

I also object to this law because it does nothing to reduce spending. When our budget was balanced and we had surpluses for four years under President Clinton from Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 to FY 2001, spending represented around 18.5 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP), the overall size of the economy, and tax revenues represented around 20 percent. In 2012 however, spending represented an estimated 22.9 percent of